



MEDIA RELEASE

14-XX

Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014

District: 8- San Bernardino

Contact: Terri Kasinga

Phone: (951) 232-4268

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STASH YOUR TRASH, CALIFORNIA!

Inland Empire – Every year Caltrans celebrates Earth Day by encouraging motorists to keep California clean and beautiful. The “Don’t Trash California” campaign is in place to remind motorists and communities along state highways to pitch in and stash their trash. Caltrans District 8 has spent over \$6 million so far in the 2013/2014 fiscal year cleaning up Inland Empire state highways.

Statewide, Caltrans has spent \$62 million dollars on litter removal for 2013/2014. This includes the removal of 155,000 cubic yards of litter, or over 10,000 garbage trucks (51 miles long, end-to-end). If the state highways could remain litter free, these funds could be spent to maintain our highway system; for example, pothole repair or roadside rest area improvements.

Caltrans District 8 maintains over 7,200 highway lane miles throughout a twenty-eight thousand, square-mile district that encompasses Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Caltrans utilizes a variety of litter removal programs such as Adopt-a-Highway, work release programs, one day “clean ups” by groups and local agencies under permit, and our own Caltrans’ maintenance crews.

Caltrans District 8 Deputy District Director of Maintenance, Steve Pusey states, “The taxpayer dollars that are spent each year to clean up our roads could be better used for ongoing infrastructure maintenance needs to assist in the movement of goods and people on state highways. Caltrans is seeking the motoring public’s partnership in preserving and enhancing California’s resources and assets. I encourage everyone to make a commitment to do their part.”

You can make a difference and join our Adopt-A-Highway Program to maintain sections of roadway within your community. In return, a freeway sign recognizing your contribution is installed along the roadside, building community pride and adding to the aesthetics of the region. In addition, once you adopt, Caltrans provides you with the supplies and safety training necessary to complete the task. Some of the benefits are: preventing potential pollutants from entering our waterways, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and beautifying the area you live in.

Littering is a crime with a fine of up to \$1,000. It is also a hazard to motorists and can be deadly. Keep your litter inside your vehicle, don’t throw cigarette butts out the window, and secure all loads on your vehicle. Caltrans reminds parents to set a good example for your children and to stash your trash. Make a difference and show you care. Don’t Trash California!

For more information and to see how you can join, go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/adopt/>.

#